

HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE

BRAC BIT: #44

DATE: 29 June 2009

SUBJECT(S): BRAC Business Initiative

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DISCUSSION:

1. BRAC Business Initiative (BBI):

- a. The Howard County BRAC Task Force mission is to identify the impacts and opportunities that Fort Meade growth will bring to the County. We believe that small and minority businesses in this County and the Region should benefit from the expanded opportunities driven by this growth. Good thoughts are one thing, but effective action is another! With that in mind, and under the leadership of Congressman Elijah Cummings and County Executive Ken Ulman, we developed the BBI. The BBI Mission and Objectives are as follows.
 - i. **Mission Statement:** The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) will actively engage in defining the environment, identifying the obstacles and developing specific actions for small businesses desiring to do work with the Federal Government and/or supporting defense contractors.
 - ii. **Objectives:**
 1. Identify obstacles to small and minority businesses that block the path to successful work with the Federal Government and supporting contractors
 2. Increase the awareness of the leadership and the general business community of Howard County and the Fort Meade Region with the federal contracting environment
 3. Develop a living template that small and minority businesses may follow to eliminate, reduce and/or avoid obstacles to business success relating to Fort Meade growth.
 4. Develop and implement a disciplined and goal oriented networking organization consisting of Test, Partner and Advisory Companies.
 5. Assess the actual performance of the participating businesses: advisory companies, federal agencies and supporting contractors. Compare to desired performance.
- b. At the heart of the BBI are 21 Test Companies, who represent a cross section of small businesses in Howard County and, ultimately, the Fort Meade Region. Over the next year, these companies will traverse the contracting gauntlet, while the BBI staff will record and document their actions for the benefit of all small businesses and our leadership.
- c. In addition to our Test Companies, we have Partner Companies that will be informed of all of the best practices and be warned of the worst practices. Additionally, they will become part of an over 200 company networking group. We have 125 on the list today. If your company would like to participate, send me an email stating, "Make me a BBI Partner Company!" Please add your contact information and a 5 line capability statement with your email. Call me if you have any questions. Kent